

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/274,014**

(a) a mineral oxide matrix having an external surface and pores, wherein the pores have a pore volume which is less than 30% of the total volume of the mineral oxide matrix, and

(b) an interactive polymer network which fills the pores and is coated on the surface of the mineral oxide matrix, so that subsequent interaction with macromolecules occurs on the external surface area of the support,

wherein said dense mineral oxide solid supports have a density of 2.1 to 11, and a particle size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .